

TESTIMONY ON HB 6798
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
AN ACT REQUIRING LABELING OF BABY FOOD AND INFANT FORMULA
CONTAINING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS

Diana Reeves
Executive Director
GMO Free USA, a Connecticut 501c3

This testimony is in support of HB 6798, a bill to mandate the labeling of GMOs in baby foods and infant formulas. Growing, vulnerable children consume more food per pound of body weight than adults and are, as a result, exposed to higher levels of food borne toxins. Speaking from personal experience, a strict elimination diet pinpointed genetically engineered corn and soy as the cause of my year-long personal battle with chronic fatigue and digestive irregularities. My diet had otherwise been strictly GMO free. My primary care physician was unable to find the cause of my fatigue and the chronic digestive problems that accompanied it. After swapping out two vitamins that contained genetically engineered corn and soy for two that were GMO free, the fatigue lifted during the three weeks following and my health improved dramatically.

There are currently no long-term industry-independent studies on the genetically engineered foods in our food supply. There are none that test for chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity. The agrichemical industry's claims of safety are based on short-term industry funded feeding studies. Many of these studies were performed on fish, chickens, quails and birds that are not anatomically similar to humans. Many more of these studies were performance studies that only seemed to look at carcass size and weight and milk production and do not look at parameters that would indicate chronic health problems. Still more of those studies were conducted on unapproved varieties and have nothing to do with the foods we eat. The industry list that claims to prove safety contains studies that actually suggest harmful effects. The industry claim of a feeding study that proves GMOs are safe primarily relates to many millions of broiler chickens that were fed GMO feed for 48 days up until slaughter and were not examined for evidence of chronic toxicity. At a time where the CDC statistics (<http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/about/2014-foa-awards.htm>) show that chronic disease is responsible for 7 out of 10 deaths and accounts for 80% of the \$2.7 trillion this country spends on medical care annually, we cannot continue to take these industry claims at face value.

Statistics show that this is the first generation of children that are sicker than their parents. Rates of allergies, autism, ADD, chronic illnesses and even autoimmune disease are rising significantly (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J47K7634MD0&list=PLhBPgar3aNfPTMMhvMNKf8k7JBi5ECe1o>). These children are being raised on genetically engineered

foods that contain foreign proteins, produce insecticides from inside every cell of that plant that can't be washed off, and are sprayed with increasing amounts of toxic herbicides. My organization has begun a program of food testing to document what is being fed to our babies and children. Independent laboratory test results on Kellogg's Froot Loops and Frito Lay SunChips found that substantially all of the corn in those foods produces insecticides from inside every cell that can't be washed off. 100% of the corn in those products has been genetically engineered to withstand spraying with glyphosate, a toxic herbicide that is linked to many health problems. The tests also found levels of herbicide residue (glyphosate) that raise significant cause for health related concern. We are in the process of testing a baby snack made by Gerber called Lil Crunchies. The genetic testing has found that 100% of the corn was engineered to be glyphosate tolerant and it also contains the DNA sequences found in Bt toxin insecticide producing GMO corn that is, in it's own right an insecticide, registered with and regulated by the EPA. The glyphosate testing has not yet been completed.

I am incorporating by reference, into this testimony, reports on the findings and the related scientific references of food testing on Kellogg's Froot Loops (<http://www.gmofreeusa.org/food-testing/kelloggs/kelloggs-froot-loops/>) and Frito Lay SunChips (<http://www.gmofreeusa.org/food-testing/frito-lay-sunchips/>), as well as an overview of the three patents on glyphosate and potential harmful effects of glyphosate as evidenced by independent scientific studies (<http://www.gmofreeusa.org/research/glyphosate/glyphosate-overview/>). I also incorporate by reference a list of over 1,800 studies, analyses and surveys that suggest adverse impacts from GMOs and the related herbicides and Bt toxins (<http://www.gmofreeusa.org/research/gmo-science-research/>).

I urge you to pass HB 6798 and require mandatory labeling of GMOs in baby foods. Without a label, there is no traceability, no accountability and no liability. Parents need to know if it's GMO. An entire generation of children is counting on you. Thank you.